



WEST BRADFORD TOWNSHIP

"Between the Brandywines"

West Bradford Township Historical Commission

2006 Annual Report
Inaugural Edition

Membership

Florence Supplee, Chair
Norma Mecke, Vice-Chair
Vince Visoskas, Appointed Secretary
Peg Anderson

Pat McGlinchey
Tanya Middleton
Joe Miller (to June)
Jeanie Robinson-Pownall (from October)

**2006 ANNUAL REPORT TRANSMITTAL LETTER
THE TOWNSHIP OF WEST BRADFORD HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**

**To The Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors
Township of West Bradford, Pennsylvania**

I am pleased to transmit to you the inaugural West Bradford Township Historical Commission Annual Report. This document, for your review, summarizes the Commission's history, its activities during 2006, and its expected activities during the upcoming year.

We are pleased with the successes of our first year. Highlights of these include the completion of the Marshallton Village structures photographic survey, entirely new youth activities held in conjunction with West Bradford Day, and promoting the sales of the Township History Book and the Rick Bollinger print. We are looking forward to continuing our efforts into 2007 and providing additional activities and outreach to the public.

The Commission members are extremely pleased that the Board has chosen to establish a formal Historical Commission. Given the Township's rich history and value of its structures of architectural significance we take our charge sincerely. We pledge to do our part to preserve the reminders of our past heritage for the benefit of current and future residents.

Yours truly,

Florence Supplee, Chair
West Bradford Township Historical Commission

History of the Commission

Formal recognition of a Township sponsored historical body began during 1976 in conjunction with the Nation's bicentennial. Resolution 1976-04 established a Historical Committee serving as an ad-hoc advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission. The primary duties undertaken by the Commission included surveying the historical structures in the township, undertaking preparation of National Register of Historic Places nominations, review of subdivision plans with historical impacts, and community outreach. The crowning achievement of the Committee was the production of a Township history book entitled, *Between the Brandywines - a History of West Bradford*. The Committee existed in this form, without formal by-laws and structured activities, until 2005.

During late 2005, the Board of Supervisors recognized the need for a more prescribed body that would identify and protect certain historical areas and structures located within the Township, collect a written record of the history and culture of the Township, and promote public historical education and outreach within the community and interaction with other historical bodies within the County.

By Resolution 2005-22 the Board of Supervisors established a recognized Historical Commission with bylaws and assigned duties. The Commission has seven members with three-year terms and is assigned a Township staff liaison who acts as Secretary.

Charge of the Commission

The West Bradford Township Historical Commission is organized to:

1. Record the history of West Bradford Township;
2. Oversee the update of the historical component (including the Township's Historical Site Survey) of the Township's Comprehensive Plan at a minimum of every ten years;
3. Gather information on the historical resources that may be affected during development and provide recommendations to the Township Planning Commission on mitigating these impacts;
4. Develop a public education and outreach program on the Township's history and its important sites;
5. Advise and assist the Board of Supervisors and Township staff in the acquisition or restoration of any objects and sites relative to the Township's history;
6. Following the approval of the Board of Supervisors, seek grant funding for activities and projects under the purview of the Commission;
7. Gather documentary evidence, illustrations, photographs, and other appropriate materials that will establish architecture and landmarks as significant and worthy of protection; and
8. Undertake such other duties and responsibilities as may be delegated from time to time by the West Bradford Township Board of Supervisors.

Report on 2005/2006 Activities

The Commission toured and catalogued the following historical structures:

- The Gray Farm Barn
- The Cigar Factory in Marshallton (Edwards Home)
- Stockgrange Manor

The Commission provided recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, Zoning Hearing Board and/or Planning Commission concerning the following:

- Bright Glade Farmhouse
- The Gray Barn
- Bratton Demolition Request (Edwards Home)
- Abrahams (Reiser) Property on Strasburg Road
- Hedrick Farmhouse (Broad Run Park)

In association with the Chester County Parks Department, sponsored a *Town Tour and Village Walk* of Romansville on June 8th. The Township hosted about one-hundred attendees.

Two historical features were created for the Township Newsletter – *the History of Romansville* and *Sugar's Spinning Wheel Factory*.

An update to the 1981 Marshallton Building Survey was completed. Companion photographs to those taken in 1981 were collected in order to provide a continuing historical reference for the village.

West Bradford Day activities were successfully expanded to include Colonial-period historical children's games and educational materials.

The Commission assisted in the sale of the Township's History Book - *Between the Brandywines - a History of West Bradford* and the *Temple-Webster-Stoner House* painting. As of November 2006, 332 special editions and 214 regular editions of the book have been sold and 51 prints of the painting.

A sub-committee of the Commission continued its work on updating the Township Historic Structure Survey.

Outline of Expected 2007 Activities

In addition to our customary review duties, the following planned activities and projects are expected to be undertaken by the Commission during 2007:

- Newsletter articles and outreach materials will be created;
- A pictorial survey of the Village of Romansville will be completed;
- An update of the historical component of the Township's Comprehensive Plan will be started;
- The Township Historic Structure Survey will be completed;
- Participation at West Bradford Day;
- Assist the West Bradford Fire Company in their fundraising Thanksgiving walk of Marshallton;
- Establish a "Marshallton Ghost Walk" – foster historical interest in the village by telling its history using storytellers at a few significant sites and having a hayride/bonfire the week before Halloween.